

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 INR-10 PA-01 SP-02 HA-05
TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PC-01 IO-13
/072 W

-----004701 201850Z /46

O P 201754Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6905
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIRILY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SHUM, OAS, NU
SUBJECT: SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE: 19 JUNE

REF: MANAGUA 2809

1. THE 20 JUNE NOVEDADES LEADS ITS ARTICLE ON SOMOZW'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE QUOTE, "AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, I HAVE DECIDED TO INVITE THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO VISIT NICARAGUAN TERRITORY AND PROCURE TRUSTWORTHY JUDGEMENTS TO PREPARE THE PROPOSED REPORT AND IN WHICH TASK MY GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE THE COOPERATION THAT IT REQUIRES".

2. SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE DEALT WITH THREE MAJOR AREAS:

A) GENERAL FISCAL POLICY (SEPTEL; B) HUMAN RIGHTS; C) HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO MEXICO. IN A SHORT SEGMENT OF HIS REMARKS, SOMOZA ALSO NOTED THE CAMPESINO LAND INVASIONS OCCURRING IN NICARAGUA, CONCLUDING THAT

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A "BETTER DISTRIBUTION" OF NATIONAL WEALTH WAS "INDISPENSABLE" TO PROVIDE NORMAL SERVICES TO THE CITIZENRY.

3. REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, SOMOZA EMPHASIZED NICARAGUA'S RECORD. HE SAID THAT ALL RIGHTS AND DUTIES IDENTIFIED IN THE 1948 INTER-AMERICAN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WERE WRITTEN INTO NICARAGUA'S CONSTITUTION AND WERE IN EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND GUARANTEED

BY THE GON. "REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OVER WHICH I PRESIDE, IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO REPORT THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS OR ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO THAT COMMISSION (IAHRC) HAVE BEEN RESPONDED TO OPPORTUNELY."

4. DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, SOMOZA WAS ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT OF COSTA RICA'S PARDONING OF FSLN LEADER, PLUTARCO SANCHO, AND THE HONDURAN REJECTION OF THE GON'S EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR GERMAN POMARES, ANOTHER FSLN MEMBER. SOMOZA REPLIED THAT, OFFICIALLY, THE GON HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE REJECTION OF ITS EXTRADITION REQUEST. SOMOZA SAID THAT THE GON COULD NOT QUESTION THE COSTA RICAN ACTION BECAUSE SANCHO IS A COSTA RICA WHO, BASED ON HIS OWN STATEMENTS, WILL COMMIT CRIMES IN NICARAGUA. THE COSTA RICAN ACTION WAS TAKEN FOR "ITS OWN CONVENIENCE AND ON ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY." RELATIONS, SOMOZA SAID, BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND ITS TWO NEIGHBORS ARE GOOD.

5. THE AP REPORTER PRESENT ASKED SOMOZA IF HE CONSIDERED THAT THE CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND THE GOV WERE INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF NICARAGUA. SOMOZA RESPONDED, "YO SI, PERO EL NO".

6. REACTION TO SOMOZA'S REMARKS HAS BEEN AS ONE WOULD PREDICT. LA PRENSA AND A COMMENTATOR ON RADIO MIL STATED THAT SOMOZA'S REMARKS WERE OF NO MAJOR IMPORTANCE. LW PRENSA WAS CRITICAL OF SOMOZA'S NOT SETTING A FIRM DATE FOR AN IAHRC VISIT AND REFERRED TO SOMOZA'S REMARK ON THE NEED FOR BETTER WEALTH DISTRIBUTION DISPARAGINLY ("AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF HE WAS DISCOVERING AMERICA").
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU02817
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780257-0417
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780640/aaaabivg.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa4fc785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANAGUA 2809
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2286277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE: 19 JUNE
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SHUM, NU, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa4fc785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014